DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 179 236 IR 008 004

AUTHOR Benton, Charles: And Others
TITLE Statements and Remarks Made at the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, November 15-17, 1979.
PUB DATE Nov 79
NOTE 52p.; Papers presented at the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (Washington, DC, November 15-17, 1979); Legibility varies
AVAILABLE FROM For related documents, see IR 008 001-013 and IR 008 213

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Conference Reports; Information Dissemination; *Information Needs; Information Science; Library Services; *Needs Assessment; *Policy Formation; Speeches
IDENTIFIERS *White House Conference Library Info Services

ABSTRACT

Remarks made by key speakers of the conference are presented, beginning with an introduction and identification of the five major themes by Charles Benton, Chairman of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and of the conference. Marilyn Gell, Executive Director of the conference, described the services of the White House Conference Information Center and its four activity areas: information on demand, conference communications, state resolutions, and physically handicapped media. The first theme speaker, Bernard Ostry (Deputy Minister of Communications to the conference), commented on increasing international understanding and cooperation, and on Canada's views of international cooperation. Francis Keppel spoke on the conference theme of lifelong learning and outlined resolutions presented in the theme discussion guide. The third conference theme--library/information services for effectively governing our society--was addressed by Senator Major R. Owens. Observations on the National Library Act and resolutions to be placed before conference delegates were made by Dr. Thomas J. Galvin, Dean of the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, and President of the American Library Association. (SW)

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STATEMENTS AND REMARKS MADE AT THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES, November 15-17,1979

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CHARLES BENTON'S REMARKS NOVEMBER 15, 1979

Here we are in a room that is alive with information.

On-line with the 100 data banks, we have our information support systems in place. What we also hope we have is a working model for America. This is a model for an information dependent society in the information age. Americans are all in a crucial period. We are flooded with information of all kinds. In fact the information explosion has hit us with intense impact. And at this point there is no coordinated national program. We are about to open the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services. And if you ask me what I want to accomplish over the next four days, the answer is this:

First, we want to take a fresh look at our library and information needs in light of the knowledge explosion and the new technologies created to deal with it; and secondly, we have to redefine institutional roles, priorites and relationships to better meet those needs through the 1980's and beyond. Clearly this is a political process and we hope legislative initiatives, executive orders and administrative actions will flow from it. Secondly, we want to increase public awareness of the state of the art and the public policy questions involved. Computers and satelliites offer opportunites for an array of choices that are mind-boggling and frightening: privacy vs. access and the government 's role in distributing information vs. copyright vs. private property are some of the major issues in conflict. How do we manage these conflicts better? We can raise the questions even if we can't answer them. But for those we can't answer we can help clarify the choices.

We offer, then, a model for public policy-making in a democracy. The 911 delegates and alternates and 1,000 observers were elected at pre-White House Conferences in every state and territory. Those delegates raised 3,000 issues and resolutions. The computerized retrieval of state resolutions will be facilitated by the technology in this room.

Each delegate has selected on e of five user-oriented theme areas:

Library and Information Services for: Personal Needs; for Lifelong Learning; for Business and the Professions; for Governance; and for International Cooperation. Starting with 34 work groups, each delegate will then proceed to one of 5 theme sessions, then to the general sessions at the end on Monday, for a final voting on priorities.

This center, a working resource of databases available to the delegates, is their invitation to put the power of Information to work.

In order for that power to be in place -- it took the power of a woman, the Director of the White House Conference, Marilyn Gell, who took it upon herself to raise the necessary half million dollars to put the exhibit together.

Marilyn is the first woman to head a White House Conference. She is a librarian with a degree from North Texas State University and a Master of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Marilyn,

MARILYN GELL'S REMARKS NOVEMBER 15, 1979

What this Conference is about are challenges, controversies and perspectives for the nation's libraries and information services. There are 100,000 libraries in the United States today. Some of them are small with only recreational reading materials; others are major information facilities. They have grown up unevenly, they are developing in a fragmented way, some of them may be bypassed in the next few years.

Until the last decade, the nation's information resources have been found in books, journals and other PRINT MEDIA. Within the past decade, we have experienced a major information conversion. A significant part of the country's information is now on film or on video tapes, in computer files or on microfiche and magnetic tape. The new technology is already part of some of our libraries. It is light years away from other libraries because it requires:

- a change in attitude about what information delivery can do
- a change in funding - expensive new technology cannot be offered for free - There is a fee. The question is, who pays?

This White House Conference Information Center developed with two planning officers from the Library of Congress, Dorothy Pollet and Connie Carter, is designed to show conference participants what an up-to-date information center can do.

It is divided into four activity areas

Information on demand; Conference Communications; State Resolutions and Blind and Physically Handicapped Media.

INFORMATION ON DEMAND - will answer delegate's questions on virtually any topic from local Washington, D.C. happenings to legislation, education, and finance. Professional librarians skilled in locating information are staffing this area. Telephones link the workshop sessions to this area. We are on-line with more than 100 computerized data bases to retrieve facts, statistics, references to publications and background information in support of work group activities. The CONFERENCE COMMUNICATIONS AREA will help us with our internal communications - sending messages to other delegates, monitoring workshop action and staying abreast of new resolutions. Through the Electronic Information Exchange System, print-outs from a computer terminal will make it possible to track the progress of workshops. Copies of all resolutions will be printed out and posted.

THE STATE RESOLUTIONS AREA provides online access to the full texts of the 2000 resolutions from the state and territorial pre-White House conferences. This computerized retrieval of state resolutions is being made available through the National Library of Medicine's ENQUIRE data base management system. THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED MEDIA AREA will produce on-demand copies of information on tape cassette or in braille for handicapped delegates. One of the latest developments in computer technology, the KURZWEIL machine, which translates from the printed page to either synthesized speech or braille, will be available for use by blind or visually handicapped persons for reading Conference or personal materials. Another new reading machine capable of providing braille transcription from a computer terminal will also be available here.

We believe in learning by doing. The Information Center represents the information delivery capabilities of a "library" not of the future, but of today. For many Conference participants this will be a first practical experience with this technology. We hope that through them and their positive experience here, we can reach the information consumers who are the American citizens and raise their consciousness about information delivery in the decade ahead.

LIBRARIES & INFORMATION SERVICES FOR INCREASING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING & COOPERATION

REMARKS BY BERNARD OSTRY

DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

TO THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOVEMBER 16, 1979

Government of Canada
Department of Communications

Information Services
300 Slater Street
Ottawa K1A 0C8
(613) 995-8185

Gouvernement du Canada
Ministère des Communications

Services d'information
300, rue Slater
Ottawa K1A 0C8
(613) 995-8185

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honour to be in this historic place in such distinguished and powerful company. I should like to thank the conveners for inviting me to introduce, from a Canadian viewpoint, your fifth theme on libraries for increasing international cooperation, adding my special thanks to Mr. Charles Benton for encouraging me to come and to Joseph Becker for giving me the benefit of his great wisdom on the subject. I thank you for myself and for my countrymen. Our two countries have a common dedication to liberty and the dissemination of knowledge for all our citizens and if, as trading partners, neighbours and allies, we cannot achieve cooperation and understanding then it is unlikely that we shall be able to achieve them in our relations with the rest of the world. In the words of Joe Becker "It is here that the first crucial steps will be taken".

Perhaps it's not a bad idea to have a Canadian here anyway. Because of the immense size of our country and the way our comparatively small population is scattered across it, we have had to become expert in the technologies of communication. In the past the canoe, the telegraph and the railway took us across the continent; and in the present century telecommunication has been vital to national development. Marconi made his first transmissions on our soil; you may be shocked to learn that many of us lay claim to Alexander Graham Bell, whose body lies in Nova Scotia; more recently we have done pioneering work with communications satellites, optical fibre, the application of micro-electronics, digital transmission and videotex technology.

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But there is more to the life of a country than technology. Our history and our politics have not favoured the creation of those integrating symbols that unify American society. From the beginning our far-flung communities have preserved their distinctiveness as offshoots of European and even American society. They have sought to guard their autonomy. You all know about Quebec; but are you equally aware that, to date, only Nova Scotia has ever tried to secede?

Time has not brought us much closer together. But we have learned to agree to differ. We have become intensely aware of the importance of understanding social and cultural differences in nurturing civilized life in any context. We have learned the value of understanding among our own people and among the peoples of the earth. Our nation is founded on give and take. World cooperation cannot be rooted in any better ground.

There is another reason why I think you might find it worthwhile to hear a Canadian voice. Of all the peoples in the world, yours and ours are most alike -- those of use who speak French no less than those who speak English. Cooperation and understanding between us is rooted in the complex ties that bind us together. Could anyone seriously suggest that libraries and information systems - concerned as they are with the intangible life of the mind -- might affect the stability of our relationship?

That is precisely what I am going to suggest. That we are so alike can blind us to our subtle but genuine differences. And if a Canadian can tell you

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that new technologies in this apparently neutral field pose a serious threat to his country's independence and continued existence, what would someone from a less closely-related country say?

Let me begin by suggesting the conditions I believe necessary to cooperation and understanding in this field and then, by way of example, describe how we might apply these principles in developing library and information services in Canada. Finally I shall argue that these lessons can be applied to all kinds of information exchanges between all countries.

Cooperation is a tricky word. It seems to me that true cooperation must begin with respect for differences. But even where that exists, even where the differences are too obvious to be missed, cooperation does not always lead to understanding, as in the story of the lobster and the oyster. Perhaps you know the story.

A Cape Breton fisherman looked over the end of a wharf one day and saw a lobster cooperating with an oyster. The lobster turned red white and blue with emotion and at last crawled away into the shadows. The fisherman addressed the oyster.

"You should be ashamed of yourself," he said, "carrying on like that with another species. It's bad for the ecology and I don't know what else. Besides, it's pointless, nothing can come of it."

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"But don't you see," said the oyster, hugging herself in ecstasy, "that's just the point! It was pure, disinterested, no ulterior motive whatsoever...." ..."My pearls! My pearls!"

The truth is that even between consenting shellfish, cooperation may not be beneficial to both parties. Of course, my country and yours can't be compared to such low life creatures. We are sovereign nations. Our government, like yours, has the duty to safeguard the rights of a sovereign people to freedom, to security, to independence, to bread and opportunity. And since it is a duty, it cannot be shared, traded away or sold down the river.

We look forward to a time when all our citizens will have equal access to the knowledge, the literature and the art of the whole world, to be made free by the whole mind and imagination of mankind. That is what our libraries are for. That is what our museums are for, what our schools and colleges and universities are for, our communications networks, our broadcasting, film and publishing industries.

But I am sure you agree that in all this it would be irresponsible not to leave room for the growth of the mind and culture of one's own people. Canadians are not to become, they will not consent to become, mere passive consumers of knowledge and culture packaged outside their borders by purveyors who have no interest in their concerns and little or no knowledge if any, of their political, economic and cultural identity. Even for those whose tastes do not run to tea parties, this could become vexation without representation.

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Canadians have always had to live with this problem. It is now a problem all countries of the world will have to live with.

The merging of communications and computers makes it possible to transfer process and store data in centres outside a country's borders and therefore subject to laws not of its own making. This fact alone gives every sovereign nation a new interest in information and in access to it. Sovereignty is now perceived as going beyond the geographical realm. Nations cannot give up the responsibility to make their own decisions about their own countries or to conserve and foster their economies and cultures. What we are talking about is nothing less than the survival of independent nations.

Cooperation, then, is a two-way process. William Blake remarked: One law for the lion and ox is oppression. Maybe my fish story has a similar meaning. One law for the crustacean and the bivalve may well be larceny. The necessary conditions for cooperation and understanding are mutual respect for sovereignty, not only in the territorial sphere but in the economic and cultural spheres as well.

How do these general considerations apply to our concern with libraries and information services?

Some of us who are closely in touch with the dazzling achievements of the new technology are apt to sound like star-trekkies when we talk about libraries. It is as if the human mind had already been replaced by silicon intelligence and

the computers had ousted librarians. But the library remains, perhaps will always remain, a centre of human intelligence. It may be augmented, it will not be replaced by computers.

Now it is the nature of things human that they exist in family, local, national and international contexts. So that the first thing to remember about the National Library of Canada is that it is a Canadian institution, collaborating first of all, with other Canadian libraries in the service of the Canadian people. And only then with other North American and sister institutions abroad.

The National Library of Canada is a comparatively new institution -- only 25 years old -- and its underdevelopment does us little credit. But retrenchment and limited budgets for this and other Canadian libraries have brought their own benefit in that they have opened the eyes of librarians to the advantages of sharing and cooperating. In the future it is likely that the National Library might consider, in cooperation with other computerized bibliographic centres, a decentralized bibliographic network to ensure the fullest sharing of information and library materials among Canadians, wherever they live.

Any such plans would have to be coordinated with Canadian communications policies and would probably make use of international and foreign indexing and abstracting. This is one way in which international cooperation could reduce costs for all user-nations.

There has even been talk in Canada of a task force that might be appointed to study the interface between library-based information services and new Canadian videotex systems like Telidon or other techniques by which home users could interact with them.

All parts of such a planwill call for an unprecedented degree of cooperation among bibliographic centres at all levels. Since you yourselves are blessed with a federal system, you will hardly be surprised to learn that we too have problems of jurisdiction and bureaucratic conflict. Our National Librarian probably already foresees difficulties in resolving the problem of ownership of records.

Meanwhile hooking our information services into American computers is already threatening our independence in the economic sphere. My own Department of the Government of Canada has produced disquieting evidence of the nature of the threat. In 1977 a survey of some 400 firms and organizations in Canada incidated that the value of transferred computing services could escalate to 1.5 billion dollars by 1985; at least 23,000 jobs could be lost to Canadians by the same date, possibly as many as 100,000. The evidence also showed that 90 per cent of the computing transferred to the United States was by Canadian subsidiaries and branches of foreign organizations. We already have unemployment and balance of payment problems which, are causing concern to our politicians.

It might seem that the national security has nothing to do with library and

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information services. But if a country allows all its vital data on business, culture and the economy to be stored outside its borders, it becomes alarmingly dependent on the integrity and reliability of the foreign enterprises that provide its computer services. Its security is compromised.

These are blunt words, but they are spoken between friends. Only when we have assured control over our own information networks can we truly be agents of cooperation and subjects for understanding. Only when our two countries meet free and fair on those terms will we be ready to set an example of cooperation to other countries.

In a paper given on this subject in Florida last week Adrian Norman spoke even more bluntly. Adrian is an Englishman, but he is also a senior member of one of the leading American consulting firms in this field, so that he sees these questions from two sides. He argued that the American political system would be incapable of adapting its own institutions to the aspirations of other nations. His conslusion "profoundly pessimistic" was that "the country which most eagerly seeks to ensure the free flow of information internationally will prevent the making of the international agreements necessary to achieve this goal; and the absence of international agreements to remove barriers will lead to national and regional measures to protect indigenous industry and culture."

No Canadian can be quite so pessimistic. Having lived next door to the United States for so long, we Canadians hold it almost as an article of faith

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that differences between our countries can be worked out, to our mutual benefit. We have too much to lose to believe otherwise. Confrontation has never been our way, and our long history of cooperation has left us with most of the mechanisms needed to resolve these problems, both in industry and government.

And when we do sit down together to tackle the issues, I hope we shall agree to put the question of library networking high on our list of priorities. Something no less valuable than dollars or jobs is at stake, the integrity of the mind and imagination of free peoples.

LIFELONG LEARNING

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

NOVEMBER 16, 1979

FRANCIS KEPPEL

In the Discussion Guide related to Lifelong Learning, prepared for this Conference by Professor Moltz, eight issues have been brought to your attention. They range from the issue of how the present Federal programs supporting libraries could be more effectively administered, through how libraries can be used to promote literacy, to how libraries can be adapted to changing social and technological environments. In view of the time available for the topic of Lifelong Learning this morning, it will not be possible for me to review these issues in detail.

I can only urge you to read the Discussion Guide and as you do so to look at pages 39 through 52 of the Summary of Pre-Conference Activities, which deal with "enhancing Lifelong Learning". I may have miscounted, but I think there are [illegible] separate resolutions on this topic alone for you to consider and to put into some kind of priority order. Since most of them suggest more tax money to do more of what is now being done, the choice of priority depends on what kind of dollar support you think will be available.

Probably the most civilized thing to do, under the circumstances, would be for me to quit now, leaving time to you for prayer and meditation. Alas, however, periods of silence at American meetings are not customary and tend to be unnerving. There is the uneasy feeling that the other person is either reading or thinking faster. So let me provide some background droning while you decide on what you want to do about this topic.

Let me suggest that we are approaching three basic policy decisions, and that our selection of the direction to take will help to order our priorities on related issues.

The first of these decisions may seem to you too obvious to be worth discussion today. For generations Americans, and particularly librarians, publishers, and editors have fought to carry out the provisions of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution:

> "Congress shall make no law -- abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble ---"

Some of the noblest traditions of libraries and the press have grown from the defense of these freedoms. Why does the issue come up again?

The reason is not, I think, that we face an assault from the forces of censorship or oppression or dictatorship of opinion - at least no more

of an assault than we have always faced. The reason is of a different character, perhaps of equal concern. Let me quote one of the papers sent to us as background reading, written by Paul Zurkowski, dealing with the emerging information age.[1]

> "A third aspect of the information age is its trend toward centralization. Obviously, if the system of freedom of expression this nation developed during the Gutenberg era - that of dispersed, decentralized printing capability - is to survive, we must begin considering how to protect that system when the media involved require centralization. If the media of the information age is electronic, largely invisible in operation, and depends on a central computer facility accessible through a centrally controlled communication system, it becomes imperative to address the question of who controls the switches of information if a system of freedom of expression is to survive. The answer will ultimately be found in First Amendment terms."

Mr. Zurkowski, as you will recall, comes to some disturbing conclusions about our present condition.[2]

> "We are moving from a predominantly industrial age to an information age; from decentralized publishing and information dissemination activities to electronic centralized networks; from a free enterprise system to increased government controls especially in the industrial environment. It is time we stopped to take stock of what this means for the free marketplace of ideas and our cherished freedom of expression. There is a clearly marked trend toward the growth of a centralized state press in secondary information activities".

I do not ask you to agree with his conclusions, but I do ask you to take seriously the question he raises. If, as seems likely to me, there will be a steady expansion in our society of lifelong learning by our citizens, then the nature and availability of information sources for that learning becomes a continuing matter of concern, and above all to libraries and other sources of information. Unintentional censorship can be as dangerous as intentional. The system of governance we establish to control what Mr. Zurkowski describes as the "switches of information" becomes a matter of first importance. There is a strong argument for decentralization and countervailing powers. But in candor I do not think that the material on pages 87-88 of the Summary of Pre-Conference Activities is adequate to the issue.

A second decision turns on the extent to which we believe that libraries and information services should take a central role in providing both learning materials and services for lifelong learning - including the

[1]Paul G. Zurkowski, "First Amendment Implications for Secondary Information Services", Communications and the Law, Volume 1, no. 2, Spring 1979, page 58.

[2]Ibid, pp 63-64

materials and services made possible by the new information age. Surely few will disagree that whatever is done should be done in concert with, not in opposition to, existing educational institutions. The problem is whether the libraries should take the lead. Because if they do, or even if they take partial responsibility for assembling materials using electronic developments and computer capabilities, they will have to face policy questions of how to finance and manage such materials and services. I was surprised, from what I could gather from reading the Resolutions that grew out of earlier conferences, that most of the emphasis on financing was placed on the balance and extent of local, state and federal taxes, and little on direct charges to users. We all know that organized educational programs are expensive. We know that federal policy in post secondary education is to help the student to finance that education by loans and grants and work study. Is it reasonable to think that this policy will be changed for later lifelong learning?

If the decision is taken to play a larger role in lifelong learning by using the latest developments of information services, a further decision is necessary. Present methods of financing the capital costs of hardware are probably not adequate, and it may be unlikely that user charges could solve the problem. Perhaps this is an area for categorical grants. In any case the issue deserves careful study before policy is determined.

A third decision also lies ahead. It is clear that we are only at the start of linking traditional library methods of governance and finance to the demands of either information science or the probable growth of lifelong learning. I submit that this statement is demonstrated by the nature of the great majority of the Resolutions as recorded in the Summary, which in effect propose improvements in present practices. It may be that these practices will have to be radically altered before the end of the century. Should this be the case, then the materials on pages 74-5 of the Summary on Research and Development and Technology should be given the most careful attention and high priority. As a new observer of the scene, I have

the impression that there is a long way to go before the optimistic promises of information science can be turned into economic realities, and that we must increase substantially our present estimates of the costs of an adequate Research and Development program. We must not make the mistake of promising our clientele that we can deliver too much too soon, as was so often done in the 1960's. Neither must we neglect the very basis of gaining the knowledge we need to progress toward new professional competence, toward integration of information resources, and toward economic viability. If the Conference decides to give top priority to Research and Development, it must also be prepared to reflect its findings in the education of the professionals and the managers, both before and on the job, who will carry out the changes in the future.

Perhaps a new profession is in the making, or at least a substantial change in content of preparation. The size of the task of Research and Development, and of the task of revising programs of professional education for the new era, in any case require that these

interrelated tasks be given the third top priority in our consideration.

Freedom of the press, the role of libraries and information services in providing methods and means for lifelong learning, and the mounting of research and development that may lead to a new profession: these three issues deserve our special attention.

LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR
EFFECTIVELY GOVERNING OUR SOCIETY

(Presented at the White House Conference on Library and Information Services by Senator Major R. Owens - November 16, 1979)

I. INTRODUCTION

PARTICIPATION IN A HALF DOZEN PRE-WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCES HAS LED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE CONCERNS THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY FEELS MOST INTENSELY ABOUT MAY BE PLACED AT TWO OPPOSITE POLES. ON THE ONE HAND THERE IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC FOCUS ON THE INFINITE POSSIBILITIES FOR SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL GAINS INCLUDING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTERIZED DATA BASES, COIN OPERATED INFORMATION BANKS AND OTHER SIMILAR ADVANCES. AT THE OTHER EXTREME THERE IS A PREOCCUPATION WITH DEVASTATING BUDGET CUTS, THE EMASCULATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES, THE ASTRONOMICAL RISE IN PRICES FOR BOOKS, AND OTHER BASIC SURVIVAL PROBLEMS.

THE PRESENT PLIGHT OF LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES IS A DRAMATIC ILLUSTRATION OF THE NEED TO FIND WAYS TO MORE EFFECTIVELY GOVERN OUR SOCIETY. WE FACE A DIZZYING ARRAY OF GADGETS, A STAR SPANGLED FUTURE WITH UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE CANCER OF NEGLECT IS KILLING THE FRAIL STRUCTURES WHICH ALREADY EXIST. MISPLACED PRIORITIES ARE THE DEADLY RESULTS OF A SOCIETY THAT IS BADLY GOVERNED. IN THIS TOPSY-TURVY WORLD THE CHALLENGE IS FOR US TO LEAD THE NATION IN REESTABLISHING CERTAIN VITAL PRIORITIES. MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY - LAY DELEGATES, TRUSTEES, LIBRARIANS, ALL THOSE WHO APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF LIBRARIES - MUST TOTALLY SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF PROOF. WE MUST ESTABLISH THE CASE HIGHLIGHTING THE VITAL NEED OF OUR SOCIETY FOR LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES. WE ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO OFFER BLUEPRINTS INDICATING WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO MEET THIS NEED. AND BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE WILL DO IT WE MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY MUST SHOW HOW THE BLUEPRINT MAY BE IMPLEMENTED, HOW TO MAKE WORKABLE THE

MECHANICS OF POLICY-MAKING, FUNDING, NETWORKING, LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY. WE MUST SHOW HOW ALL OF THIS MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED IN OUR LIFETIME BEFORE CATASTROPHE OVERTAKES OUR CIVILIZATION.

II. THE CASE FOR THE VITAL NEED

FIRST, OUR CASE FOR VITAL NEED MUST REST ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THIS COMPLEX DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY CANNOT BE EFFECTIVELY GOVERNED WITHOJT A KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SYSTEM WHICH MATCHES MODERN SOCIETY'S COMPLEXITY. THE LIBRARY WHICH IS MERELY A QUIET PLACE TO READ BELONGS TO AN ERA THAT HAS ENDED, AN AGE THAT IS OVER. AMERICA HAS SOME OF THE BEST PUBLICLY SUPPORTED LIBRARIES IN THE WORLD, BUT OUR EXISTING EFFORTS ARE STILL RATHER PRIMITIVE WHEN COMPARED TO THE KIND OF KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION NEEDS OF OUR TIME.

IMAGINATIONS DO NOT HAVE TO BE STRAINED OR EVEN STRETCHED; WE DO NOT HAVE TO ENTER THE REALM OF SCIENCE FICTION TO FIND EXAMPLES OF THE KINDS OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF MEETING THE PUBLIC NEEDS. ADEQUATE INFORMATION SYSTEMS ARE ALREADY HERE ALIVE AND WELL OPERATING IN THE SERVICE OF INDUSTRY, OTHER PRIVATE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS AND SELECTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THE QUESTION IS NOT SHALL WE DESIGN NEW SYSTEMS. THE QUESTION IS HOW DO WE USE WHAT TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN INGENUITY HAS ALREADY DEVISED TO PROMOTE THE COMMON GOOD AND THE GENERAL WELFARE.

NO PROBLEM OR OBSTACLE RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ADEQUATE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS IS INSURMOUNTABLE. BUT TO PRESEVERE AND OVERCOME, FIRST WE MUST BELIEVE; WE MUST BE CONVINCED THAT LIBRARIES ARE VITAL. WE MUST FEEL IN OUR SOULS THAT THE FLOW OF KNOWLEDGE AND

INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC IS A LIFE AND DEATH MATTER. WHEN THE ELECTORATE IS IGNORANT AND "CITIZENSHIP ILLITERATE" DEMOCRACY WILL SURELY DIE.

LISTEN AGAIN TO THE WORDS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON STILL AS WISE AS THEY WERE MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. JEFFERSON ARGUED THAT THE PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF GOVERNING THEMSELVES IF THEY HAVE ADEQUATE EDUCATION AND IF THEY HAVE ADEQUATE INFORMATION. THOSE WHO HEAR AND TRULY UNDERSTAND THOMAS JEFFERSON WILL NOT HESITATE TO SET THE RIGHT PRIORITIES, TO PROVIDE THE RESOURCES NECESSARY FOR LIBRARY SYSTEMS. IF EDUCATION AND INFORMATION ARE THE CORNERSTONES OF DEMOCRACY THEN THERE CAN BE NO PRIORITIES ABOVE THEM.

DEMOCRATIC DECISION-MAKING IS ON TRIAL. THESE ARE TIMES WHEN THE ABILITY OF THE PEOPLE, THE ELECTORATE TO MAKE WISE CHOICES IS BEING TESTED. YOU HAVE HEARD OF BASIC LITERACY, FUNCTIONAL LITERACY AND INFORMATION LITERACY. TRY NOW TO GO ONE STEP FURTHER AND UNDERSTAND "CITIZENSHIP LITERACY". I DEFINE CITIZENSHIP LITERACY AS THE ABILITY TO USE HISTORY, CURRENT THEORIES, FACTS AND PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS TO GUIDE INDIVIDUAL DECISION-MAKING ON PUBLIC ISSUES, PROPOSITIONS, THE SELECTION AND ELECTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND OTHER SIMILAR MATTERS. DEMOCRACY IS ON TRIAL BECAUSE TOO LARGE A PERCENTAGE OF OUR POPULACE ARE CITIZENSHIP ILLITERATES.

CITIZENSHIP ILLITERATES SOMETIMES CHOOSE TO BOYCOTT THE PROCESSES OF PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING. THE NEARLY FIFTY PER CENT OF THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS WHO DID NOT BOTHER TO CAST A BALLOT IN THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BELONG TO THIS MISGUIDED TRIBE. COMMENTING ON THIS LACK OF PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, ON OCTOBER 24, 1979 WALTER CRONKITE ON WCBS RADIO CONCLUDED THAT SINCE ONE HALF OF OUR CITIZENS ARE FUNCTIONAL ILLITERATES WHO ARE INCAPABLE OF MAKING REASONABLE

DECISIONS, WE SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE NON-VOTERS TO BECOME VOTERS. CRONKITE'S HORRIFYING MESSAGE WAS THE TOPIC SENTENCE TO THE SURRENDER OF DEMOCRACY. IT WAS THE INTRODUCTION TO A BOOK ON THE DISMANTLING OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT IN GOVERNMENT THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN. AS POLITICAL DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON WE CANNOT ENDORSE THIS DEADLY PROPOSAL FOR POLITICAL TRIAGE. INSTEAD OF ATTEMPTING TO THROW ONE HALF OF OUR POPULACE OVERBOARD LEAVING THEM IN A SEA OF IGNORANCE, WE MUST RESOLVE TO MOBILIZE ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES - INCLUDING TELEVISION COMMENTATORS - IN A COORDINATED CAMPAIGN AGAINST CITIZENSHIP ILLITERACY.

AS DANGEROUS AS THOSE WHO REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE ARE THE CITIZENSHIP ILLITERATES WHO ARE ANXIOUS TO ACQUIESCE, TO FOLLOW BLINDLY BEHIND EXPERTS AND DICTATORS. THE EXPERTS GAVE US FIERY DEATH IN THE DC-10. THE EXPERTS CALCULATED AN EASY VICTORY IN VIET NAM AND MANY THOUSAND DEAD BODIES LATER REFUSED TO CONCEDE THEIR ERROR. THE EXPERTS CONSTRUCTED AND REGULATED THE PLANT AT THREE-MILE ISLAND WHERE ONE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT THREATENED THE LIVES OF MILLIONS. EVENTS OF THE LAST TEN YEARS HAVE MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT WE MUST HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM THE EXPERTS.

OUR CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS BECAUSE OUR FOUNDING FATHERS FEARED TYRANTS, PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS AND MILITARY EXPERTS. BEARING ARMS, MAINTAINING PRIVATE ARSENALS, CAN NO LONGER PROTECT US FROM THE NUMEROUS MORE SUBTLE AND COMPLEX THREATS TO OUR FREEDOMS. THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS IS AN OBSOLETE RIGHT WHICH SHOULD NOW BE REPLACED BY THE RIGHT TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION ON PUBLIC PROBLEMS AND ISSUES AND INCLUDED IN THIS RIGHT IS THE RIGHT TO HAVE SUCH KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION FREELY, ACCESSIBLE AND IN GREAT ABUNDANCE.

AND AFTER THEY SUBMIT TO THE EXPERTS THE POORLY INFORMED AND CONFUSED NEXT CRY OUT FOR STRONG LEADERS. HITLER BUILT BETTER HIGHWAYS. MUSSOLINI MADE THE TRAINS RUN ON TIME. IN THE STRENGTH OF THE STRONG LEADER CITIZENSHIP ILLITERATES FIND SIMPLICITY, CLARITY AND A SENSE OF PURPOSE. A MORE LITERATE ELECTORATE WOULD KNOW THAT RECENT HISTORY DRAMATICALLY EXPOSES THE FACT THAT WHEN THE PEOPLE SURRENDER THEIR DECISION-MAKING RIGHTS FOR THE SAKE OF ORDER AND CONVENIENCE, FOR THEIR LAZINESS, SUCH CITIZENS ARE USUALLY REWARDED WITH PAIN, SUFFERING AND SOCIAL CHAOS.

BETTER THAN ALL OTHER INDICATORS THERE IS ONE PREVAILING PHENOMENON WHICH CLEARLY ILLUSTRATES THE NEED FOR BETTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS. EXAMINE THE OPINION POLLS AND YOU WILL FIND THAT THE COLLECTIVE MIND OF THE ELECTORATE IS A GREAT BALL OF CONFUSION. WE REPEATEDLY CONTRADICT OURSELVES. WE EXPRESS GREAT ANGER AND DISSATISFACTION AT THE PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHICH WE OURSELVES HAVE CHOSEN. WE DEMAND SPECIFIC SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS WHICH RUN DIRECTLY COUNTER TO OUR EXPRESSED GENERAL BELIEFS. A RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLL SHOWS THAT AMERICANS WANT LESS GOVERNMENT REGULATION (N.Y. Times, 11/8/79) AT THE SAME TIME IN THE FACE OF ASTRONOMICAL OIL COMPANY PROFITS, THERE IS A MASSIVE CLAMOR FOR MORE GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF THE OIL INDUSTRY. FOLLOWING THE CRASH OF THE DC-10 AT CHICAGO, IT WAS A PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP THAT FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO GROUND ALL DC-10's FOR INSPECTION. PUBLIC OPINION AND PUBLIC PRESSURE IS NOW DEMANDING GREATER REGULATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. THESE CONTRADICTIONS ARE NOT BY ACCIDENT AND THEY DO NOT REFLECT A FEEBLE-MINDED ELECTORATE. CONFUSION IS THE RESULT OF CONTINUAL BOMBARDMENT BY THE PROPAGANDA OF VESTED INTEREST GROUPS; IT IS A BY-PRODUCT OF THE MILD TRAUMA VOTERS EXPERIENCE EACH TIME A POLITICIAN PROMISES ONE ACTION

BEFORE ELECTION AND THEN REVERSES HIS POSITION AFTER ELECTION. CONFUSION COMES WHEN WE ARE FORCED TO DEPEND TOO HEAVILY ON BIASED, SELF-SERVING INFORMATION SOURCES.

SOME SACRED PLACE WHERE OBJECTIVITY IS THE GOAL, WHERE DIVERSITY OF VIEWPOINTS IS THE RULE, WHERE THOROUGHNESS IS POSSIBLE; SOME PUBLIC SHRINES WHICH MAKE THE SWIFT SEARCH FOR TRUTH FEASIBLE ARE NEEDED. BEFORE DEMOCRACY IS CONSUMED, SUCKED DOWN INTO A SPECTACULAR PHANTASMAGORIA OF CONTRADICTIONS AND CONFUSION, LET US BUILD A STRONG NATIONAL PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SYSTEM.

III. BLUEPRINT OF WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO ARGUE THAT LIBRARIES ALONE STAND AT THE BRINK PREVENTING OUR DEMOCRACY FROM PLUNGING INTO CHAOS. CERTAINLY THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY ELEMENT NEEDED; AND DESPITE OUR STRONG EMOTIONAL COMMITMENT WE SHOULD NOT BLUNDER INTO AN ASSERTION THAT LIBRARIES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF AN OVERALL PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SYSTEM. WE DEEM IT SUFFICIENT TO SAY THAT LIBRARIES ARE A VITAL PART AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE LIBRARY SERVICES ARE NOT INCLUDED, NO PUBLIC INFORMATION SYSTEM IS A COMPLETE AND ADEQUATE STRUCTURE.

THE KEY MESSAGE OF PLATO'S REPUBLIC IS THAT JUSTICE EXISTS WHEN EVERY ELEMENT IN SOCIETY IS ACCORDED ITS PROPER PLACE. MANY ENTITIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE VITAL FLOW OF KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION. APPRECIATING AND ENCOURAGING EACH UNIQUE ROLE IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE FOR THE PRESEVATION OF A TOTAL MODERN FREE COMMUNICATIONS ENVIRONMENT. LIBRARIES SHOULD NEVER ATTEMPT TO DO WHAT THE FREE PRESS CAN DO BETTER. PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS SHOULD NOT FLEE FROM THEIR DUTY TO DEVELOP PROGRAMS WHICH DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF BASIC AND FUNCTIONAL ILLITERACY IN OUR

SOCIETY. TELEVISION COMMENTATORS SHOULD NOT USURP THE ROLE OF POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SHOULD ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION FOR CITIZENSHIP LITERACY. PRIVATELY OWNED RADIO STATIONS SHOULD NOT PRETEND TO BE AS OBJECTIVE AND DISINTERESTED AS THE VARIETY OF VIEWPOINTS FOUND ON THE SHELVES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

IF ALL OF THE COMPONENTS WERE ARRANGED ON A CONTINUUM FROM THE MOST COSTLY TO THE LEAST COSTLY, COMMERCIAL TELEVISION WOULD BE AT ONE EXTREME AND LIBRARIES WOULD REST AT THE OPPOSITE END. ALTHOUGH IT HAS THE LARGEST AUDIENCE, BECAUSE OF ITS ENORMOUS COSTS, TELEVISION WILL NEVER CONVEY ANYTHING MORE THAN MINISCULE AMOUNTS OF THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO MAINTAIN CITIZENSHIP LITERACY. RADIO, POPULAR MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS, AND LECTURE HALLS FOLLOW SUIT. AS THE COSTS DECREASE THE THOROUGHNESS OF THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION INCREASES. ON ANY GIVEN ISSUE OR SUBJECT OF PUBLIC SIGNIFICANCE TELEVISION AND RADIO ARE LIKELY TO DO NO MORE THAN "TRIGGER" THE INTERESTS AND CURIOSITY OF THE PUBLIC. MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS MAY EXPAND AND AMPLIFY BEYOND THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA BUT ONLY THE PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL PROVIDE THE CITIZEN WITH A VARIETY OF VIEWPOINTS AND A CROSS SECTION OF COVERAGE. IN OTHER WORDS THE LIBRARY IS POTENTIALLY THE FINAL SATISFYING ORGAN FOR ANY SEARCH STIMULATED BY THE OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE OVERALL KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION CONSTRUCT.

AT THE PLACE WHERE THE SEARCH ENDS FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT INFORMATION TO HELP THEM MAKE DECISIONS, CITIZENS DESERVE THE BEST THAT IS AVAILABLE. TERMINALS FOR COMPUTERIZED DATA BASES, VIDEO CASSETTES, ORAL HISTORY TAPES, TELETYPED LECTURES, NEWSLETTERS FROM THE RADICAL RIGHT AND THE RADICAL LEFT; NOTHING SHOULD BE OFF LIMITS FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

TO FORGE A NEW BLUEPRINT LET US LAY ASIDE CONVENTIONAL THINKING AND DEVASTATING STEREOTYPES:

- THE LIBRARY DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A QUIET PLACE
- PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE NOT ORNAMENTAL NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES. THE PAPERBACK REVOLUTION HAS NOT MADE PUBLIC LIBRARIES LESS ESSENTIAL.
- LIBRARIES ARE NOT OF NECESSITY LOW ENERGY ACTIVITIES.
- LIBRARIES ARE NOT SUPERFLUOUS INSTITUTIONS; THEY ARE IMPORTANT NATIONAL RESOURCES VITAL FOR OUR NATIONAL SECURITY AND WELL BEING.

THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY MISGUIDED NOTIONS WHICH STAND AS DANGEROUS OBSTACLES TO THE FUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADEQUATE PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR OUR NATION. IT IS TRUE THAT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTLY SERVES AN ELITE CLIENTELE. BUT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S ELITE IS AN OPEN AND EXPANDING ELITE, AN ELITE THAT HAS NO BORDERS AND NO BOUNDS. TO SERVE DEMOCRACY AND PROMOTE MAXIMUM CITIZENSHIP LITERACY THE PUBLIC LIBRARY ENCOURAGES THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFINITE ELITE.

AS OUR ELITE EXPANDS THE CHALLENGE TO PROVIDE SERVICES BECOMES GREATER AND ONLY A BLUEPRINT WHICH SHOWS HOW ALL OF THE COMPONENTS - FROM COMPUTERS AND TELEVISION TO LOCAL COLLEGE LECTURES - CAN WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY TOGETHER TO CREATE A SYSTEM IS RELEVANT FOR OUR TIMES.

IV. HOW TO SET UP A NATIONAL PUBLIC SYSTEM

IN ORDER FOR LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFECTIVE GOVERNING OF OUR SOCIETY A NEW NATIONAL PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION SYSTEM MUST BE CREATED. WITHIN PRESENT DAY BUDGET CONSTRAINTS IT IS POSSIBLE TO SET UP SUCH A WORKABLE SYSTEM. NO

CUMBESOME BUREAUCRACY PREOCCUPIED WITH CENTRAL CONTROL AND DETAILED DIRECTION IS NECESSARY; HOWEVER, A NATIONAL BODY WITH CERTAIN SPECIFIED FEDERAL POWERS MUST BE PLACED AT THE APEX OF A NATIONAL SYSTEM.

TO GUIDE THIS NATIONAL POLICY BODY WE MUST ADOPT THE CONCEPT OF INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC UTILITY. INFORMATION IS A RECORD OF PHENOMENA OBSERVED AND A RECORD OF DECISIONS MADE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS THE GREATEST SINGLE SPONSOR OF RESEARCH AND SURVEYS WHERE PHENOMENA ARE OBSERVED AND IT IS ALSO THE GREATEST SINGLE GENERATOR OF DECISIONS OF PUBLIC SIGNIFICANCE. THE PEOPLE ALREADY OWN A BODY OF INFORMATION - CENSUS DATA, THE FEDERAL REGISTER, TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS, THE TEXT OF SUPREME COURT DECISIONS, THE UNCLASSIFIED RESEARCH OF THE CIA, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, ETC. - THAT FLOWS CONTINUOUSLY AND IS FOREVER EXPANDING. SINCE THE PEOPLE OWN THE RAW MATERIAL THEN IT IS REASONABLE TO REQUIRE THAT CERTAIN ENTREPENEURS WHO WISH TO REFINE AND PACKAGE SUCH RAW DATA BE EITHER CHARGED AT THE OUTSET OR TAXED ON THE BASIS OF ACTUAL USAGE. SUCH A REQUIREMENT WOULD ALLOW FOR THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL FUND TO SUBSIDIZE LIBRARY USERS OF COMMERCIAL MACHINE RETRIEVAL SERVICES. THIS IS ONLY ONE EXAMPLE OF WHERE THE CONCEPT OF INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC UTILITY MAY LEAD US.

SINCE THE PUBLIC OWNS THE AIRWAYS, THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION COULD MANDATE THAT MORE PRIME TIME BE USED BY RADIO AND TELEVISION FOR THE PRESENTATION OF SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS AND ISSUES. WHILE IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE MEDIA, DUE TO COST CONSTRAINTS CAN ONLY "TRIGGER" THE PROCESS OF ACQUIRING ADEQUATE INFORMATION, GREATER COOPERATION WITH LIBRARY SYSTEMS MUST ALSO BE MANDATED IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE AVAILABILITY OF MATERIALS FOR FOLLOW-UP AT THE FINAL SEARCHING PLACE.

IN OTHER WORDS, ON ANY ONE OF THE CURRENT"ISSUE CLUSTERS" - ENERGY, INFLATION, NUCLEAR ENERGY SAFETY - PUBLIC SERVICE TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTING COULD BE PLANNED COOPERATIVELY WITH LIBRARIES WITH ENOUGH FOREWARNING TO ALLOW LIBRARIES TO OBTAIN THE MATERIALS AND SERVICES NECESSARY TO FULFILL THE NEED STIMULATED BY THE BROADCASTS.

PERIODICALLY - ANNUALLY OR QUARTERLY - IT IS POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH PRIORITY "ISSUE CLUSTERS" AT THE NATIONAL STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS. IT IS POSSIBLE TO ORCHESTRATE MANY OF THE PRIVATE, QUASI-PUBLIC, AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CITIZENSHIP LITERACY ON ANY AGREED UPON SET OF ISSUES. IMPORTANT RESULTS WILL BE ACHIEVED WHEN EACH COMPONENT FULLY PERFORMS TO THE LIMITS OF ITS CAPACITY. TO PERFORM ADEQUATELY LIBRARIES MUST HAVE FUNDS FOR STAFF, PRINTED MATERIALS, AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS, COMPUTER HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND ANY OTHER ITEMS NECESSARY.

FUNDING IS THE GREAT AND ENDURING PROBLEM WHICH WILL CEASE TO BE A PROBLEM WHEN OUR BUDGET DECISION-MAKERS ARE CONVINCED THAT OUR SOCIETY CAN NO LONGER BE EFFECTIVELY GOVERNED WITHOUT ADEQUATE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES. THE AMOUNT OF MONEY NEEDED TO REVAMP OVERNIGHT ALL OF THE LIBRARY SYSTEMS OF AMERICA TO BRING THEM TO A LEVEL WHERE THEY COULD PROVIDE ADEQUATE MODERN INFORMATION SERVICES IS MINISCULE WHEN COMPARED TO THE AMOUNTS OUR POPULACE SPENDS FOR TOBACCO AND LIQUOR. SINCE NO ONE IS PROPOSING AN OVERNIGHT REVAMPING THE AMOUNT OF MONEY IS STILL SMALLER; HOWEVER, NOT SO SMALL AS THE PITIFUL PENNIES PRESENTLY OFFERED BY OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN ALL OF THE YEARS SINCE THE FIRST FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR LIBRARIES BEGAN THROUGH THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT, THE TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDING AMOUNTS TO LESS THAN THE COST OF TWO AIRCRAFT CARRIERS. TO CHANGE THIS SCANDALOUS SITUATION,

PRESIDENTS, GOVERNORS, MAYORS, CONGRESSMEN, LEGISLATORS, CITY COUNCILMEN; ALL MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT LIBRARIES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN IMPROVED SEWERS.

WORSE THAN CONTAMINATION FROM POOR SEWAGE, IGNORANCE IS A POISON FOREVER SEEPING THROUGH THE SYSTEMS OF OUR BODY POLITIC. TOO MANY ELECTED OFFICIALS HOLD OFFICE BECAUSE THEY HAVE MANIPULATED THE GULLIBILITY, FLATTERED THE WORST INSTINCTS AND GENERALLY PREYED UPON THE IGNORANCE OF THE PEOPLE. ACROSS THE COUNTRY MOST OF THESE ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY HOSTILE TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES. IN ANY GIVEN ERA OR PERIOD IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO COLLECTIVELY AND SYSTEMATICALLY COMMIT ERRORS THAT ARE MONUMENTAL AND ATROCIOUS. THE TREATMENT OF LIBRARIES OVER MANY DECADES REPRESENTS SUCH A SECRET SCANDAL. THE INADEQUATE FUNDING OF LIBRARIES IS A MAJOR BLUNDER, A GHASTLY EXAMPLE OF INVERTED PRIORITIES.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THIS HISTORIC CONFERENCE WILL RESOLVE THAT WE SHOULD NOT BEAR TAMELY THE CONTINUED NEGLECT OF OUR LIBRARIES. THIS EAGER AND ENTHUSIASTIC BODY GATHERED FROM ALL PARTS OF AMERICA MUST REAFFIRM THE PASSION OF THOMAS JEFFERSON. JEFFERSON SHOWED NO CONCERN FOR SEWAGE SYSTEMS BECAUSE HE KNEW THAT GREAT CIVILIZATIONS HAVE BEEN BUILT WITHOUT COSTLY AND ELABORATE CONCRETE PIPES. BUT DEMOCRACY CAN SURVIVE ONLY IF THE PEOPLE HAVE ADEQUATE EDUCATION; ONLY IF THE PEOPLE HAVE ADEQUATE INFORMATION.

ON ONE CRUCIAL POINT WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT JEFFERSON IS NOW OUTDATED. WE HOPE THAT THE TREE OF LIBERTY DOES NOT HAVE TO BE NOURISHED WITH THE BLOOD OF EACH GENERATION. WE HOPE THAT PREVENTIVE ACTIVISM CAN HELP TO PURIFY AND MAINTAIN OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT WAR AND

BLOODSHED. BUT INTELLIGENT ACTIVISM BEGINS WITH INFORMATION. DEPRIVE THE PEOPLE OF INFORMATION AND WE ARE NO LONGER THE EQUAL MEN AND WOMEN REFERRED TO IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

WHEN ALL OF THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS CONFERENCE HAVE ENDED LET US RETURN HOME WITH AT LEAST ONE UNIFYING THOUGHT: WE BELIEVE IN THOMAS JEFFERSON. LIBRARIES ARE NOT SENTIMENTAL ORNAMENTS. LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES ARE VITAL FOR EFFECTIVELY GOVERNING OUR SOCIETY. LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES ARE VITAL FOR THE SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY.

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Abstract and Attachments

Statement of

Dr. Thomas J. Galvin

Dean, School of Library and Information Science
University of Pittsburgh

President, American Library Association

to

White House Conference on Library and Information Services

at

Open Hearing
November 17, 1979

Issues to be raised -

Observations on S. 1124, National Library Act

Resolutions to be placed before WHCLIS delegates:

1) Libraries within the Department of Education
2) National Periodical Center
3) Preferential Telecommunications Rates
4) Postal Reform Legislation
5) Literary, Musical, and Artistic Donations to Libraries
6) Revision of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents
7) Pricing of Basic Government Publications
8) Florence Protocol
9) Funding of Federal Library Programs

These resolutions are recommended to the delegates because legislation recently passed or pending, or recent legislative history makes them timely and appropriate. No attempt is made to establish WHCLIS priorities, but only to identify issues relating to current federal legislation on which a strong WHCLIS statement would have a definite impact.

Statement of
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Dean, School of Library and Information Science
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White House Conference on Library and Information Services
Open Hearing
November 17, 1979

The White House Conference on Library and Information Services takes place amid growing recognition of the importance and centrality of information services in American life. The level of literacy required and the sophistication of the information needed to function effectively in today's complex society are increasing steadily. The delegates to this conference have the opportunity to help determine the place of libraries in an information society. Our libraries, many of which are now in serious financial peril, are national resources that America must save and strengthen.

The federal government has a continuing responsibility for the quality of library and information services available to all Americans. In establishing the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, Congress recognized that responsibility and affirmed in Public Law 91-345:

> ...that library and information services adequate to meet the needs of the people of the United States are essential to achieve national goals and to utilize most effectively the Nation's educational resources and that the Federal Government will cooperate with State and local governments and public and private agencies in assuring optimum provision of such services.

Most recently, President Carter in his message to Congress on October 31 (House Document 96-214) set forth a broad government program to spur industrial innovation in America. Among the President's proposals is the establishment of nonprofit centers to help provide more comprehensive dissemination of technical information that can be used by industry. With federal assistance, libraries could help achieve this and other national goals such as disseminating information on energy conservation, reducing adult illiteracy, providing essential societal information to the disadvantaged, the elderly, the handicapped, and assuring a quality

education for the young.

One major proposal concerning the federal role in support of libraries is before this conference as S. 1124, the National Library Act. This study bill has a number of interesting, significant and important aspects that merit thoughtful consideration and exploration. It suggests the creation of a new National Library Agency as the locus of federal library activity. However, events subsequent to the introduction of S. 1124 provide a new and timely opportunity for a locus of responsibility, and demonstrate how difficult it is to create a new bureaucracy. The lengthy and sometimes acrimonious history of the legislation creating a Department of Education (Public Law 96-88) demonstrates that it is almost impossible to consolidate widely scattered programs with their own supporters in Congress and their respective constituencies in the field.

The new Department of Education, which is just now getting organized, offers an immediate opportunity for a strengthened administrative unit for federal library programs. Some of the functions envisioned for the proposed National Library Agency could be handled very effectively by an expanded Office of Libraries and Learning Resources at the Assistant Secretary level within the new department. A proposed resolution to this effect is attached to my statement for consideration by the delegates to this Conference.

ALA recognizes that under the time constraints of a White House Conference, delegates will not be able to work out all the detailed issues raised by S. 1124. ALA recommends that all interested parties be called upon to work out specific provisions for implementing legislation after the conference, based on priorities set and directions recommended by the delegates. The authorizations for existing library legislation allow time for thorough consideration of WHCLIS recommendations after the conference. For instance, the Library Services and Construction Act is authorized through fiscal year 1982; the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (including school library assistance) through FY 1983; the Higher Education Act (including aid to college and research libraries and library training and demonstra-

tions) through FY 1985 after a pending reauthorization measure is enacted next year. In addition, all these programs are subject to an automatic one-year extension.

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science has already demonstrated leadership in bringing together interested constituencies on important issues, as evidenced by the Open Forum held last March on the proposed National Periodical Center. The Commission could be called on again to hold an open forum on implementation issues of the National Library Act or other legislative proposals recommended by WHCLIS delegates.

In the meantime, the importance of a strong expression of support by WHCLIS delegates for increased funding for existing library programs cannot be overemphasized. The President's FY 1981 budget now being developed by the Office of Management and Budget for transmittal to Congress in January is expected to contain sharp reductions in library funding--this in the year of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services! The school library program would be cut in half, for instance, library training and demonstrations would be zero funded.

New legislative initiatives should be anticipated by increasing the funding for existing programs so that there will be money in the bank, so to speak, to transfer to new programs which may be recommended at this conference. Even if enacted into law, Congress would be reluctant to fund a new program if the level of funding required were too great a jump over current levels of federal support.

A proposed resolution on funding of federal library programs is attached to my statement, along with several others suggested because current federal legislative developments make them timely and appropriate. We hope that all of these draft resolutions can be considered by the delegates to this White House Conference.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the American Library Association.

OBSERVATIONS ON S. 1124, NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT

Brief Summary of S. 1124

The National Library Act, a legislative proposal initiated by the National Citizens Emergency Committee to Save Our Public Libraries headed by Whitney North Seymour Jr., was introduced last May as a study bill for WHCLIS discussion by Senators Jacob Javits (R-NY) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA). S. 1124 would replace the Library Services and Construction Act with an expanded program of aid to public libraries administered by a new National Library Agency with a presidentially-appointed director and board. The bill would provide for direct financial assistance to public libraries for operating expenses on a matching 20 percent federal, 50 percent state, 30 percent local basis. In additional titles it would continue public library construction assistance, establish grants for services to special constituencies, assist interlibrary cooperation including development and maintenance of library and information networks, and fund special training programs for library personnel.

Summary of ALA Observations

The American Library Association applauds this legislative initiative and generally supports many of the concepts embodied in S. 1124. However, ALA suggests an alternative to creation of a new National Library Agency--and that is a strengthened Office of Libraries and Learning Resources within the newly created Department of Education. ALA also recognizes that the many detailed questions raised by S. 1124 cannot be worked out to everyone's satisfaction given the limited time in a White House Conference forum. Based on priorities and directions recommended by delegates, all interested parties can be called upon to work out specific provisions of implementing legislation after the conference.

The National Library Agency--an Alternative

The National Library Agency would be given authority to administer a number of library-related functions now housed in a variety of existing agencies (including Library of Congress, National Library of Medicine, National Agricultural Library, Government Printing Office, International Communications Agency, National Endowment for the Humanities, and National Center for Education Statistics). The history of the legislation creating a Department of Education demonstrates that it is almost impossible to consolidate widely scattered programs with their own supporters in Congress and their own constituencies in the field.

However, the Department of Education also offers an opportunity for a strengthened administrative unit for federal library programs. Some of the functions envisioned for the proposed National Library Agency could be handled very effectively by an expanded Office of Libraries and Learning Resources under an Assistant Secretary within the new department. A change from proposing a controversial new bureaucracy to this more realistic alternative would increase the chances for the rest of the bill.

Details of S. 1124 Will Require Further Scrutiny

In order to make the most productive use of scarce WHC time, delegates will have to concentrate in discussions and resolutions on the principles, rather than the details of the study bill. Based on priorities set and directions recommended by WHCLIS delegates, interested parties can be called upon to work out specific provisions of implementing legislation after the conference. The existing Library Services and Construction Act is authorized through fiscal year 1982 with an automatic one-year extension. Thus there is time to give the details the careful and thorough scrutiny they deserve by all interested constituencies after the conference.

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Questions Raised by S. 1124

The study bill has been "studied" by several groups within the library community; numerous questions have been raised and should be discussed. Some issues will undoubtedly be aired at the White House Conference; others can be hammered out at a later open forum of interested constituencies. Among the questions raised are the following:

The concept of federal incentives for increased state support of public library services is a good one, but questions have come up about the specific 20/50/30 federal/state/local funding formula proposed in S. 1124. The state share would increase to 50 percent over five years. Would this provision have the support of the nation's governors? of state legislators?

Under the existing Library Services and Construction Act, the federal share ranges from 33 to 66 percent. Under the National Library Act it would decrease from 30 to 20 percent over five years. Are the states willing to make such a change?

States which are unable or unwilling to provide 50 percent of the funding would lose the entire federal contribution except for a small basic allotment. How many states might be in this situation?

Are funds to be distributed by the state library agency to individual libraries on a per capita basis, as promotional materials indicate? or according to priorities in the state plan, as the bill itself seems to indicate?

States and localities vary tremendously in terms of needs and ability to support libraries. Is imposition of a national per capita standard as required by the bill realistic at this time?

How does the additional authority given state library agencies in the development and maintenance of cooperative library networks impact on interstate, regional and other existing network configurations?

Increasing the number of titles in federal public library assistance legislation increases the range of services aided and enhances the potential for funding. But it also increases the chances that the Administration or Congress may recommend funding for one or more titles but not for all, depending on current priorities and budgetary pressures. What are the tradeoffs here?

American Library Association
Washington Office
November 1979

RESOLUTION ON LIBRARIES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The American Library Association recommends that WHCLIS delegates adopt the following:

WHEREAS American libraries have long served as an indispensable element in both formal and lifelong education, and the importance of libraries in the educational process has long been recognized by the federal government; and

WHEREAS libraries are a cross-cutting function providing support for all levels and forms of education, and have elements in common with other cross-cutting functions such as education technology, telecommunications demonstrations, education information centers, and literacy activities; and

WHEREAS the newly-created cabinet-level Department of Education provides an opportunity for rethinking and restructuring cross-cutting functions such as libraries;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that WHCLIS delegates support the expansion of the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources under the direction of an Assistant Secretary within the new Department of Education, and call upon Congress and the Administration to take favorable action in support of this resolution.

Rationale: Support of this resolution by WHCLIS delegates is needed and could not be more timely. A transition team is already at work on the internal organization of the new department, and confirmation hearings for the secretary-designate, California Judge Shirley Hufstedler, have been scheduled for November 20 by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

The new department, signed into law by President Carter on October 17 (PL 96-88), transfers and consolidates some 170 federal education programs. As finally approved by Congress, the new secretary is given the power to consolidate, alter, discontinue or reallocate the functions of a number of statutory entities, including the Office of Libraries and Learning Resources, after giving 90 days notice to House and Senate authorizing committees.

The Office of Libraries and Learning Resources, although mandated by the Education Amendments of 1974 (PL 93-380), has had an up-and-down history of reorganization and low priority status within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The status of the library unit within the new Department of Education is still very much up in the air.

The American Library Association, in a resolution adopted by ALA Council in January 1979, supported the creation of a separate department and recommended that the library unit be elevated in status and combined with education technology and non-traditional learning. The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science has also recommended that the library unit be placed at the level of Assistant Secretary within the new Department of Education.

American Library Association
Washington Office
November 1979

RESOLUTION ON A NATIONAL PERIODICAL CENTER

The American Library Association recommends that WHCLIS delegates adopt the following:

WHEREAS the national welfare is inextricably linked with ready access to information in periodicals which have become the single most dominant medium for communicating research results, and

WHEREAS existing interlibrary loan mechanisms for the dissemination of periodical information are inadequate and increasingly unable to meet the demand placed on them; and

WHEREAS the public welfare can best be served when the profit and not-for-profit sectors act in partnership in the dissemination of information;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WHCLIS delegates support the establishment of a National Periodical Center and call upon Congress and the Administration to take favorable action in support of this resolution.

Rationale: The House passed on November 7 an extension of the Higher Education Act, HR 5192, which included as part D of title II a National Periodical Center. The Senate has completed hearings on HEA extension, including the NPC proposal, but has not yet developed its own bill.

Organizations which have endorsed the NPC concept includes the following: American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, Association of American Universities, Medical Library Association, Special Libraries Association, National Commission on Library and Information Science, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, Center for Research Libraries, and Universal Serials and Book Exchange, Inc. Endorsement by WHCLIS delegates would send a clear message to the Senate that library users would benefit from a National Periodical Center.

The bill passed by the House would establish an independent non-profit corporation which would serve as a national lending resource by providing improved access to periodical literature. The corporation would have a 15 member board of directors appointed by the President, with representation from the government, academic and research communities, libraries, publishers, the information community, authors, and the public.

The NPC would be authorized to acquire, preserve and make available periodicals and journals through its own dedicated collection and by cooperation with local, state and regional library systems, national libraries, private commercial suppliers and other periodical service agencies. Necessary copyright fees would be paid.

The bill authorizes appropriations of $15 million each year through fiscal year 1985. It could be funded only if parts A, B and C of HEA title II were funded at no lower than the FY 1979 levels. These levels are $9.975 million for II-A college library resources, $3 million for II-B library training and demonstrations, and $6 million for the II-C research library program.

American Library Association
Washington Office
November 1979

RESOLUTION ON PREFERENTIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS RATES

The American Library Association recommends that WHCLIS delegates adopt the following:

WHEREAS in a democratic society an informed citizenry is basic to the national interest, and

WHEREAS libraries collectively are a major disseminator of occupational, educational, and recreational information to the American people, and

WHEREAS today's libraries are no longer just repositories for books but sources of information with emphasis on access and communication, and

WHEREAS the enormous proliferation and fragmentation of knowledge, the increasing sophistication of information necessary to function in today's complex society, and the explosive development of information and communication technologies to meet these demands, all make use of telecommunications technologies by libraries essential, and

WHEREAS ample precedent exists in public laws and regulatory policy for giving special recognition to nonprofit libraries and educational institutions as they carry out their responsibilities to the public,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that WHCLIS delegates call upon Congress and the Administration to establish by statute the ability for common carriers to provide preferential rates for nonprofit libraries and educational institutions in their uses of telecommunications channels of all types for inter-institutional transmissions and for the distribution of information to the public.

Rationale: In keeping with our national goal to conserve energy it is doubly important that libraries provide information to the public in the most efficient ways possible. Through the use of telecommunications libraries might reach people in their homes and at their places of work as an alternative to requiring citizens to travel long distances to libraries. The emphasis should be on moving information to people rather than moving people to information, especially to reach the homebound, handicapped, and elderly as well as citizens in remote rural areas.

Today's libraries are interactive sources of information which rely more and more heavily on the new technologies as means to library access and for information dissemination. The explosive development of information and communication technologies, including cable television, mini- and microcomputers, videocassette technology, video discs and satellite communication will increasingly make possible heretofore unexplored possibilities for access to information by the public. Automated library networks that supply cataloging, ordering and other kinds of bibliographic information to libraries via on-line computer facilities are already operating in many areas of the country. It is imperative, therefore, that libraries be assured of the ready availability of reliable and affordable communications channels.

There is clear precedent in the statutes and regulations for special recognition for libraries and educational institutions in several closely related areas. Some examples follow:

Public Broadcasting. The Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 states that AT&T, in providing the interconnection for public broadcasting, could do so under preferential rates.

Communications Satellite Facilities. In the Federal Communications Commission's Second Report and Order on Docket 16495, June 16, 1972, in the matter of the

"Establishment of Domestic Communications Satellite Facilities by Non-Governmental Entities," paragraph E, page 10, entitled Terms of Access by Public Broadcasting and Other Educational Interests, provides:

> ...we recognize that there is a well-established national policy, incorporated in legislation, which encourages and makes it lawful for common carriers to provide free or reduced rate interconnection services to public broadcasting and other educational interests. These statutes make it possible for the Commission to prescribe preferential rates for educational entities covered by such legislation, as well as for carriers to file tariffs offering free or reduced rates to such entities on their own initiative.

Networks for Knowledge. In a previous extension (Public Law 90-575) of the Higher Education Act, title VIII, Networks for Knowledge, encouraged colleges and universities and their libraries to share to an optimal extent, through cooperative arrangements, their technical and other educational and administrative facilities and resources. Grants were authorized for sharing through a variety of telecommunications technologies, including rapid transmission of library materials, closed-circuit television, and electronic computer networks. Section 803, "Authority for Free or Reduced Rate Communications Interconnection Services," reads as follows:

> Nothing in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, or in any other provision of law shall be construed to prevent United States communications common carriers from rendering, subject to such rules and regulations as the Federal Communications Commission may prescribe, free or reduced rate communications interconnection services for interconnection systems within the purview of this title, whether or not included in a project for which a grant is made under this title.

Although title VIII has expired for lack of funding, the need for such authority still remains and the rationale is still valid.

Postal Rates. The legislative history of the Act creating the U.S. Postal Service and subsequent reorganizational criteria authorize and urge the Postal Rate and Service Commission to establish postal rates that reflect the educational and cultural value of books and materials and to establish preferential library rates, even if such rates involve subsidization of service. Accordingly, Congress provides preferential postal rates for libraries and educational institutions.

Copyright Fair Use Privileges. In the 1976 copyright law (PL 94-553) Congress made a clear distinction between the nonprofit and the commercial sectors in dealing with the uses of copyrighted materials. The law contains certain safeguards for librarians, teachers and researchers in their uses of materials.

Surplus Property. The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act (PL 87-786 as amended) in section 203(j)(3) permits libraries, like other educational institutions, to receive both real and personal surplus property.

Most recently, President Carter in his message to Congress on October 31 (H. Doc. 96-214) set forth a broad government program to spur industrial innovation in America. Among the President's proposals is the establishment of nonprofit centers to help provide more comprehensive dissemination of technical information that can be used by industry. Libraries could serve as such nonprofit centers but to function adequately in this role, they would need the use of telecommunications channels at reduced rates.

American Library Association
Washington Office
November 1979

RESOLUTION ON POSTAL REFORM LEGISLATION

The American Library Association recommends that WHCLIS delegates adopt the following:

WHEREAS libraries are dependent on the U.S. mails for receipt of materials from publishers and distributors, for interlibrary loans, and for direct library service to geographically isolated or homebound patrons; and

WHEREAS current law (PL 94-421) requires that the "educational, cultural, scientific, and informational value to the recipient of mail matter" be taken into consideration in setting postal rates; and

WHEREAS the House of Representatives recently passed by an overwhelming margin a bill (HR 79) which would increase the public service subsidy to the U.S. Postal Service, extend the phased rate increases for fourth-class book and library rates over a longer period of time, and make further improvements to the library rate including extending it to books sent from libraries and educational institutions as well as to them;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that WHCLIS delegates respectfully urge that the U.S. Senate pass legislation during the 96th Congress similar to HR 79, the Postal Service Act of 1979.

Rationale: The House has twice passed needed postal reform legislation. Last year the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee reported a similar measure but it did not reach the Senate floor. Senator John Glenn's (D-OH) Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation, and Federal Services, which handles postal legislation, has taken no action yet this year. Meanwhile the public service appropriation for the U.S. Postal Service declined this fiscal year by $92 million; the library rate increased an average of 22 percent in July of this year, and the book rate 24 percent.

If finally approved by Congress, HR 79 would correct a misinterpretation of present law and allow libraries to return books to publishers and distributors at the library rate. It is ironic that libraries, for whom the library rate was intended, must use the higher book rate to return such materials. HR 79 would also make clear that all libraries and not just public libraries are eligible for the library rate. Finally, it would enable libraries and educational institutions to send and receive additional materials, including book catalogs, teaching aids and evidence kits, under the library rate.

Over 30 organizations are on record in support of postal reform legislation such as HR 79. The list includes: American Library Association, Association of American Publishers, National Education Association, Classroom Publishers Association, Magazine Publishers Association, American Booksellers Association, and several postal workers unions and postmasters and postal supervisors associations.

Libraries in major metropolitan areas are often well-served by delivery services of large book distributors or United Parcel Service, but libraries in more sparsely populated areas are totally dependent on USPS. In addition, the increasing price and dwindling supply of gasoline has caused some library systems to cut back bookmobile service and increase use of books-by-mail to isolated or homebound users.

American Library Association
Washington Office
November 1979

RESOLUTION ON LITERARY, MUSICAL, AND ARTISTIC DONATIONS TO LIBRARIES

The American Library Association recommends that WHCLIS delegates adopt the following:

WHEREAS prior to the Tax Reform Act of 1969 (PL 91-172), an author or artist who donated his or her literary, musical or artistic compositions or papers to a library or museum could take a tax deduction equal to the fair market value of the items at the time of the contribution, and

WHEREAS since 1969 such deductions have been limited to the cost of the materials used to produce the compositions, and donations to libraries have been severely reduced, and

WHEREAS an entire generation of literary papers may be lost to future scholars through lack of an incentive to donate them to libraries, and

WHEREAS restoration of a tax incentive would contribute to the equitable tax treatment of authors and artists and would increase public access to and preservation of the nation's literary and artistic legacy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Congress enact legislation restoring a tax incentive for authors and artists to donate their creative works to libraries and museums.

Rationale: Bills are pending in both House and Senate which would restore a tax incentive. These measures are supported by the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, the Library of Congress, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Council of Creative Artists, Libraries, and Museums (composed of 18 affiliated organizations). However, small tax bills such as these (HR 2498, S. 1078) tend to get stuck in the process unless widespread support can be demonstrated. WHCLIS endorsement would indicate interest by library users and lay citizens.

Specific instances of manuscript collection losses directly attributable to lack of tax deductions have been cited by many libraries. Those specializing in comtemporary literature, art, and music have experienced a definite decline since 1969. However, the number of authors, artists, and composers who may have come forward with manuscript donations had the Tax Reform Act not been in effect will never be fully known.

Some authors are selling their manuscripts to the highest bidder. This means an author's manuscripts may be split up, may no longer be available in the state or region where they were produced, may even be sold out of the country, and may be inaccessible to researchers because of owners restrictions.

With tighter budgets, libraries are at a disadvantage in competing for manuscripts offered for sale. Some authors have placed collections "on deposit" in libraries, hoping for a change in the tax laws. Such deposit collections are of limited benefit to scholars because libraries are reluctant to spend time and money organizing collections which may later be withdrawn.

American Library Association
Washington Office
November 1979

RESOLUTION ON REVISION OF TITLE 44, PUBLIC PRINTING AND DOCUMENTS

The American Library Association recommends that WHCLIS delegates adopt the following:

WHEREAS the federal government collects, compiles and produces information on every subject which pertains to life in our society, and

WHEREAS free access to government information is crucial to informed public decision making in a democratic society, and

WHEREAS libraries, including depository libraries, play a significant role in making this information available to the public, and

WHEREAS the U.S. Congress is presently engaged in a comprehensive review of the U.S. Code, Title 44, "Public Printing and Documents," with the stated purpose of providing for improved administration of public printing services and distribution of public documents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that WHCLIS delegates call upon Congress and the Administration to enact legislation requiring:

1. A system of free, equal, effective and efficient distribution to depository libraries which permits full and free access to government publications in all formats including print, microform, on-line data-files, audio and visual presentations or other means of information transfer;

2. The periodic publication of a comprehensive listing and description of all government publications produced;

3. The continuation of the present system of in-depth regional depository collections and support services, and local selective depository libraries through which government information can be made available to the public;

4. The establishment of a comprehensive current and retrospective collection of government-produced publications to serve depository libraries and the public nationwide as a source for reference and referral service, interlibrary loan, photoduplication and telefacsimile or other transmission systems; and

5. The establishment of a comprehensive centralized or coordinated sales program to offer basic federal documents on a subsidized basis, and all other federal government publications in whatever format, for sale on a cost recovery basis so that non-profit libraries are able to continue acquiring them for use by the public.

Rationale: Congress is now in the process of revising Title 44 of the U.S. Code, "Public Printing and Documents." Title 44 is the U.S. Code section dealing most broadly with such library/citizen oriented policies as the printing, listing, pricing and distribution of government publications. Each resolve clause above addresses a particular issue or set of issues involved in the pending revision of Title 44.

Resolve clause number one focuses on the materials available under the depository library program, a part of Title 44. Many products that were once produced in traditional book format and distributed to depository libraries are now on microfiche or computer tape. As new technology changes the format in which government publications or information products are produced, it is essential that the public continue to have access to them through local libraries.

Clause two focuses on what is perhaps a root cause of the problems of public access to government publications, the lack of any comprehensive listing. Government studies have demonstrated the failure of many agencies to keep track of their own publishing activities. It is difficult for libraries to meet public needs when no authoritative listing of what exists is published.

The successes of the present depository library program are greatly strengthened by the pending legislation, but the existence of regional depository in-depth collections and support services is not explicitly retained. Resolve clause three supports the local/regional service structure, while clause four supports the congressional intent to establish one national center as a backup for the entire system. The revision legislation should stipulate that an intermediate service level between local libraries and the national center should be retained. At present there is no source to which the public or the nation's libraries may turn for all government publications.

Resolve clause five calls for a sales program much like that which exists under current law. The pricing structure is quickly raising costs above the means of individuals and small libraries. Because information generated during the course of government business is not a consumable commodity, making its existence known and available reaps the greatest benefit from the tax dollars spent on its generation. Freely accessible government information increases accountability while also raising the consciousness of the public in topics ranging from the arts to zoology. That public is as diverse as are the delegates to the first White House Conference on Library and Information Services.

American Library Association
Washington Office
November 1979

RESOLUTION ON PRICING OF BASIC GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

The American Library Association recommends that WHCLIS delegates adopt the following:

WHEREAS broad public participation in government is essential to the effective functioning of a democracy, and

WHEREAS the nation's libraries provide students, scholars, and the general public with free and equal access to the printed record of the federal government, and

WHEREAS fewer than 8 percent of the 18,000 public libraries, branches, and college libraries in the United States are eligible to receive one copy of the Congressional Record, Federal Register, and other basic publications free through the depository library program, and

WHEREAS House Report 96-245 urges that the Public Printer raise the price of these and other subsidized publications to fully recover costs, and

WHEREAS this action would limit the number of libraries able to afford these publications, thus lessening public access to those fundamental tools of democracy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Congress continue to foster broad public participation in the federal government by substantial subsidies on the sale of basic federal documents.

Rationale: There have been several attempts over the past decade to increase the price of basic federal publications significantly. For instance the Federal Register rose from $15 annually in 1968 to $50 annually in 1976. The push toward total cost recovery was voiced once again in House Report 96-245, which accompanied the FY 1980 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill in June of this year. The price of the Federal Register alone would approach $150 annually under such a full cost recovery move.

In recent years Congress has also taken many steps to assure increased availability of government information on an equal basis to all citizens. These moves assume widespread availability of basic federal government publications. The principle that broad access to information on matters of government encourages more participation in government and heightened accountability of government is being explicitly applied in legislation. For example, implementation of the Privacy Act (PL 93-579) is dependent upon agency rules published in the Federal Register "in a form available to the public at low cost." Also, shorter deadlines for public comment on proposed regulations are becoming more common in an effort to speed up the regulatory process. Such a reform assumes that the public has unhampered access to the proposals in the Federal Register.

The prices of the most basic federal government publications, the Congressional Record, Federal Register, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Government Manual, Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, and others are already far too high for many libraries, especially those in small communities and rural areas without easy access to the larger depository libraries.

American Library Association
Washington Office
November 1979

RESOLUTION ON THE FLORENCE PROTOCOL

The American Library Association recommends that WHCLIS delegates adopt the following:

WHEREAS the Florence Agreement (Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials), by eliminating import duties on books, periodicals, printed music and other educational, scientific and cultural materials in the U.S. and 68 other adhering countries, has provided great benefits to libraries and their users, as well as to educational institutions and the general public; and

WHEREAS a 1976 Protocol (supplement) to the Florence Agreement which, among other improvements, extends duty-free status to audio, visual and microform materials without limitation in optional Annex C-1 is now open to accession by the U.S. and other countries;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that WHCLIS delegates urge the Department of State to submit the Florence Agreement Protocol and the necessary implementing legislation to the U.S. Congress for approval early in 1980; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of State recommend that the U.S. adopt the more liberal Annex C-1 of the Protocol relating to audio, visual and microform materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate be respectfully urged to act promptly to approve the Protocol as a treaty, and both Houses of Congress be respectfully urged to approve the implementing legislation.

Rationale: The Florence Protocol is a benefit to libraries and their users which exists on the books, but will not take effect between the ratifying states until after the fifth ratification. In the U.S., the process is not a speedy one, but it could be started any time--thus the rationale for WHCLIS support.

After receiving the Protocol from the State Department, the Senate must approve it as a treaty, and then implementing legislation making the required changes in U.S. import duties must be passed by both Houses of Congress.

Among the organizations which have supported U.S. adherence to the Protocol, including optional Annex C-1, are the American Library Association, the Association of Media Producers, the Motion Picture Association of America, the Record Industry Association of America, the Association of American Publishers, the Authors Guild, and the Association for Educational Communication and Technology.

American Library Association
Washington Office
November 1979

RESOLUTION ON FUNDING OF FEDERAL LIBRARY PROGRAMS

The American Library Association recommends that WHCLIS delegates adopt the following:

WHEREAS an informed citizenry is essential in a democratic society, and

WHEREAS the level of literacy necessary to function effectively in today's complex society is steadily rising, and

WHEREAS it is a priority of both Congress and the Administration to improve the basic learning skills of elementary and secondary school students, and to reduce adult illiteracy, and

WHEREAS basic skills and literacy cannot be improved without a commitment to library support, and

WHEREAS reports of preliminary federal budget figures for fiscal year 1981 indicate sharp reductions in library funding,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that WHCLIS delegates call upon Congress and the Administration to restore and increase funds for federal library programs to ensure effective library and information services for all citizens.

Rationale: The President's budget to be released in January is expected to contain sharp reductions in library funding below already inadequate levels--in this year of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services! For instance, a national newsletter has already reported that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act title IV-B school library resources program will be pegged at $90 million--compared with the current level of $171 million. The Higher Education Act title II-B library training and demonstration program, currently just $1 million, would be zero funded.

The importance of strong support by WHCLIS delegates for increased funding for existing federal library programs cannot be overemphasized. New legislative initiatives which may be recommended by WHCLIS should be anticipated by increasing the funding for existing programs so that there will be money in the bank, so to speak, to transfer to new programs. Even if enacted into law, Congress would be reluctant to fund a new program if the level of support required were too great a jump over current levels of federal support.

In recent years, public, school and academic libraries have seen a decline both in actual budget dollars and in the purchasing power of the funds they receive. Over the past five years the average book price rose 43 percent, the average periodical subscription 56 percent, while the overall inflation rate rose 32 percent during the same period. These costs are uncontrollable no matter how prudently library management watches its dollars. People most in need of services--the poor, the elderly, the handicapped, the newcomers with little or no English, the disadvantaged student--find that the special materials suited to their needs may no longer be acquired because funds are not available to carry out such programs.

Libraries are an essential component of any national literacy effort and could, with increased support, do more to help develop an effective and informed citizenry. The administration proposed and Congress enacted recently a new basic skills improvement program, but basic skills and literacy cannot be improved without appropriate library resources.

American Library Association
Washington Office
November 1979